

In the Claims

Delete claims ~~1-36~~ and insert the following claims 37-48 in their place:

02 -- 37. A process for the manufacture of polymer coated composite substrate, said process comprising the steps of forming a chemically crosslinked polymer coating on a compressible mat without heating and compressing and heating the crosslinked coating and the mat to form the polymer coated composite substrate.

38. The process of claim 37 wherein the compressible mat further comprises a sheet of paper which is glued to the surface of the mat.

39. The process of claim 38 wherein the chemically crosslinked polymer coating is formed on the paper.

40. The process of claim 37 wherein the polymer coated composite substrate is paper and the chemically crosslinked polymer coating is formed on a fiber mat and compressed with the mat as part of a papermaking process.

41. The process of claim 37, 38, 39, or claim 40 wherein the chemically crosslinked polymer is ionically crosslinked.

42. The process of claim 37, 38, 39, or claim 40 wherein the chemically crosslinked polymer is covalently crosslinked.

43. The process of claim 41 wherein the ionically crosslinked polymer has thermosetting functionality.

44. A process for the manufacture of polymer coated composite substrate, said process comprising the steps of forming an ionically crosslinked polymer coating on a compressible mat and compressing and heating the crosslinked coating and the mat to form the polymer coated composite substrate.